

# ***The Electric Mercury***

**U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, August 2003**

**For more on these and other important stories, see August 2003 printed issue of The Mercury.  
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

## **Award recognizes officers as outstanding junior leaders**

Five AMEDD members are among 27 junior officers receiving the GEN Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award: MAJ Zoe O. Salome, deputy state surgeon, Arizona National Guard; CPT Jacob A. Johnson, officer in charge of a support squad, 994th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), Austin, Texas; CPT Cynthia N. Carlsson, commander of C Company, 2nd/414th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 104th Division (Institutional Training); 1LT (now CPT) Alejandro Gonzales, executive officer, Company E, Academy Battalion, AMEDD Center and School, now commander of D Company in the school's 232nd Medical Battalion; and CW2 Guy C. Gleason, instrument flight examiner and instructor pilot, 717th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), New Mexico National Guard.

## **MEDCOM honors top troops**

SPC Angelina Ellis and SFC Samuel Morris are 2003 Medical Command Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, respectively. Morris is an instructor with G Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, AMEDD Center and School. Ellis is an allergy/immunizations technician at Heidelberg, Germany, MEDDAC. They were selected during competition held May 29-June 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The two winners will compete against other major command winners for Army-wide Soldier and NCO of the Year honors. (With photos and a sidebar article listing all competitors.)

## **Best Practices website allows units to share ideas that work**

Medical Command's quality management division is using World Wide Web technology to boost the AMEDD Best Practices Program's responsiveness and impact. Clinicians and managers now can visit the AMEDD Best Practices Network website to review good ideas or to submit their own tested methods for posting. A Best Practice is "an improved, or innovative, process that produces significantly better results as measured quantitatively or qualitatively, compared to past results within the AMEDD."

## **AMEDD planners work to reset the force**

The Army Medical Department is spread around the world with an unprecedented operational tempo, notes Army Surgeon General/MEDCOM Commander LTG James B. Peake in his monthly column. And it is being lauded as professional, competent, and compassionate by line commanders, its own officers and NCOs, and the stream of patients returning to the U.S., he adds. But, far from resting on its laurels, the AMEDD is already studying the lessons learned from the war in Iraq and planning for the future.

Other important stories in this month's edition of the *Mercury* include:

● Iraqi Freedom roundup describes clinical innovations; Army veterinarians' efforts to improve health of farm animals; a field improvisation to aid a hypothermic patient; a hospital working under flying fragments due to ammo-dump fire; and the work of an environmental assessment team from the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

● A team at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases is among scientists studying the SARS virus, including testing of drugs that might treat SARS.

● After months of waiting to deploy, 452nd Combat Support Hospital, once bound for Iraq, finds itself in Afghanistan June 1, replacing 48th CSH.

● Almost 500 soldiers from 25th Infantry Division volunteer for a medical study of diarrhea by Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences during Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand.

● Soldiers from 5th Medical Detachment catch rodents and send them to Korea University to be blood-tested for the virus that causes Korean hemorrhagic fever.

● Almost 600 U.S. Army Reserve medics in units from 27 states test combat health support in a field environment at Fort McCoy, Wis., and Fort Gordon, Ga., in Golden Medic '03.

● Photos: SPC Andrea Goguen, Company A, 161st Area Support Medical Battalion, Florida Army National Guard, checks soldier's injured knee in Kuwait; Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe employee moves medical supplies with a forklift; SGT Martha Zuniga and SPC Meghan Slater help LTC Todd Morton and unidentified medic treat patient at 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in Iraq; LTC John Howard and SPC Mary McDermott, both of 7224th Medical Support Unit, examine teeth of PV2 Rashad Johnson at Fort Stewart, Ga.; PFC Ryan Barrett, combat medic, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, SPC Rusvin Orellana, combat medic, 307th Logistics Task Force, and 1LT Steve Schmelzer, 307th registered nurse, bandage Afghan with land-mine wounds; COL Leland Jurgensmeier listens for breath, while SFC Timothy Drummond assists patient's breathing during Human Patient Simulator training at Fort Riley, Kan.

● Louis Pangaro has an alter ego, one he long kept secret from coworkers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and his students at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Pangaro has enjoyed performing in live Shakespearean theater. Now he realizes that his theater experience helps his interaction with his students and his patients.

● Commentary: "Neel left life-saving legacy," by Harry Noyes, honors retired MG Spurgeon Neel, who died June 6 at age 83 after a career that earned him the title "Father of Army Aviation Medicine." Neel was a major force in the military medevac helicopter's coming of age, launched the use of helicopters in civilian lifesaving, and served as deputy surgeon general and first commander of Health Services Command; "Check sources of Internet information," by CPT Athena J. Stoyas, warns readers that not all information on the Internet is reliable and that no one should base medical treatment on the Internet without discussion with a health-care provider.

● Skin cancer is the most common cancer but is easy to prevent. U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's COL Frances Sorge offers an acronym to remember how.

● Fort Hood MEDDAC social worker finds that communicating candidly with her children about sex and its consequences is the best way to help them make the right decisions.